

# Tech Topics

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## Senate approves 14-week semesters

Over the objections of students, the University Senate voted January 13 to adopt an academic calendar based on two fourteen-week semesters.

The senate has been trying to establish a semester calendar set to start in fall 2000, using as its base a Calendar Issues Clarification Committee (CICC) proposal that provides for fifteen-week semesters. The committee, which included faculty, staff, and students, incorporated a series of boundary conditions in its draft calendar, including promises not to reduce the number of instructional days or tamper with traditional holidays.

A fourteen-week calendar would cut about eight to ten instructional days in an academic year from the existing calendar, which has about 145 currently. The fifteen-week calendar would have about the same number as the present calendar. And the senate voted January 6 to eliminate the Good Friday holiday and hold K-Day on Labor Day, though revisions of that position are pending.

Under Board of Control policy, the University Senate is responsible for setting the academic calendar. However, before it can be presented to the Board for final action, the calendar must also be approved by the administration.

Senators have repeatedly complained about how the series of holidays in the CICC draft calendar—Labor Day, K-Day, and Homecoming—would disrupt fall courses, particularly labs. The problem is a chronic one: faculty have expressed the same frustrations over the holidays in the fall quarter.

Senator **Bruce Barna** (chemical engineering) said the senate was not obligated to meet the boundary conditions, since they had been developed independently by the CICC, which is an advisory committee and not empowered to act. "I think it would be cavalier to overthrow the boundary conditions," Senate President **Bruce Seely** said, adding that the senate should nonetheless not be restricted to such conditions.

Senator **Tom Snyder** (biological sciences) said that having fourteen-week semesters would allow students who fail courses during

(Continued on page 6)

## MTU looks at how far we've come and where we're going

Measuring itself against a self-imposed yardstick, the University hasn't achieved everything it set out to accomplish back in 1993, according to Provost **Fred Dobney**. But Michigan Tech has been making a deliberate effort to attain those ideals crafted five years ago.

Back then, a primary goal was to add about fifty tenured/tenure-track faculty, and, at 342, MTU is only thirteen short of the mark. However, faculty have fewer students to teach than anticipated. Undergraduate enrollment is about 5,600, considerably less than the hoped-for 6,300; and graduate enrollment, while holding its own, is about 300 less than the projected 900. A strong job market traditionally depresses grad school enrollments, and the Presidents Club has provided \$25,000 to recruit qualified graduate students.

Research expenditures have been solidly on the rise. While 1998's approximately \$14 million in federal dollars is just shy of the \$15 million goal, total research spending reached \$23.7 million, greater than the goal of \$21 million.

About \$380,000 was designated this year to improve undergraduate programs, including funding to gain accreditation for the School of Business and Economics, support financial aid staff, and pay for the semester conversion. A new activities coordinator in the Office of Student Affairs will advise the *Lode* and Greek organizations, as well as coordinate other student activities. In addition, more money has been designated for the math and chemistry learning centers, which have a waiting list of students needing help.

Also to support undergraduate education, MTU has been searching for an associate-

professor-level faculty member to spearhead the planned computer engineering program, but the tight job market has made qualified candidates scarce.

Responding to the needs of staff, the University has provided \$15,000 to boost the wellness program's services this year and \$10,000 to fund a part-time training consultant. And the library, which the NCA accreditation report said was in need of additional resources, has received about \$400,000 to improve and maintain its offerings, including journal subscriptions.

To support the physical plant, Michigan Tech will be spending an additional \$500,000 to open and maintain the Dow Building this year. In addition, \$85,000 has been budgeted for classroom technology upgrades and \$22,860 for new campus security phones, to be installed on each floor of many University buildings.

Most of the money for new programs this year has come through position control. Previously, departments had their base budgets reduced 1 percent annually, and this realignment money was used to fund new programs. This year, however, the provost has instead been capturing funds from position vacancies that he has opted not to fill. "It's been working well," Dobney said. "It puts the onus on the provost, instead of the deans and directors."

Dobney reviewed possible budget priorities for 1999–2000, including salary increases and an increase in the University's TIAA-CREF contribution. Other possible expenditures include additional GTAs and GAs, marketing and student recruitment, classroom technology, the library, new faculty and staff, and more.

## Board of Control to meet downstate

The Board of Control will meet on Friday, January 22, at 9:00 a.m. at the Dearborn Inn, in Dearborn.

The Board will consider eliminating the MPSERS severance pay program, which gives employees 2 percent of their current salary times years of service at MTU if they have accumulated 80 points (age plus years of service) at retirement. The administration is recommending the change because of large cost increases in the MPSERS program. Under the proposal, the severance pay program would end June 30, 1999. However, under the administration proposal, eligible MPSERS employees who retire no later than June 30, 2001, must notify the University by June 30, 1999, of their intention to retire, and still receive the benefit. If the change is approved, Human Resources will distribute details to MPSERS employees.

Also on the agenda is discussion of the strategic plan and budget parameters for the next fiscal year. The public is invited.

## Staff Council elects new officers

Staff Council has elected new officers for 1999. They include Chair **Betty Gaff** (career center), Vice Chair **Roger Johnson** (ME-EM), and Secretary **Becky Christianson** (Human Resources).

*We are ne'er like angels till our  
passion dies.*

—THOMAS DEKKER, 1572–1633

## Curt in his longies?

President **Curt Tompkins**, who has traveled many miles and done many things on behalf of Michigan Tech, has now agreed to run through campus in his underwear for another good cause. But there is a catch.

To support Sigma Tau Gamma's annual Winter Carnival fundraiser, Tompkins has pledged to lead the brothers' long-underwear run through campus if—and only if—they receive \$5,000 in pledges. If they raise \$1,000, Hockey Coach **Tim Watters** and Assistant Dean of Students **Steve Tyrell** will run with them. The event is set for Wednesday, February 3, at 4:30 p.m.

Donations are tax deductible and will benefit Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly. For more information, please contact Mike Laquere at 482-8388; or send donations to Sigma Tau Gamma c/o Laquere at 1020 College Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931. Make checks payable to "Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly."

## FDC grants available

The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Faculty Development is seeking proposals for Faculty Development Committee (FDC) Grants.

All members of the MTU educational community are invited to submit proposals. Grants are given to faculty and teaching assistants to support innovative teaching methods, interdisciplinary instructional initiatives, and professional and personal development. Funding ranges from a maximum of \$500 for grants that benefit an individual or small group, to \$1,500 for grants for a department or interdisciplinary group, to \$3,000 for grants that benefit a campus-wide constituency.

Proposals that include matching funds are preferred. For more information, contact the center at 487-2046 or nsseely@mtu.edu. Application forms are also available at <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/ctlf/d/>

The application deadline is February 12.

# MichiganTech

Bill Curnow, executive director, University Relations  
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- By e-mail to [topics@mtu.edu](mailto:topics@mtu.edu)
- By campus mail, send typed copies to *Tech Topics*, University Relations.

Each week, the deadline for submitting information is **Friday at 5:00 p.m.** for publication the following Friday.

## New tool for groundwater remediation

Submitted by the News Bureau

Researchers are looking at new tool to help decision-makers clean up the groundwater.

"Selecting the optimal design for a soil or groundwater remediation strategy is currently an enormous challenge for decision makers due to the number of potential alternatives, the complexity of contaminated subsurface environments, and the need to weigh conflicting objectives such as risk and cost," says the project leader, Associate Professor **Alex Mayer** (geological engineering and sciences).

Simulation/optimization models have been applied to remediation design, but they haven't allowed for multi-objective optimization.

The aim of this project is to develop, apply, and test new procedures to solve multi-objective groundwater remediation problems, creating a new set of tools for decision makers.

Mayer says that when cleanup systems were designed in the past, they were focused on the least expensive solution to reduce a

toxic compound to the lowest feasible level.

"If we assume there is a fixed amount of money available to clean up contaminated sites, we should be prioritizing cleanup of sites where the return, in terms of risk reduction, is the greatest for the minimum expected cost."

Mayer says the efforts of researchers will now focus on developing procedures for producing tradeoff curves, or surfaces, consisting of solutions that are optimal with respect to at least one objective. Decision makers will be able to examine the tradeoff curves and select a solution or solutions based on their judgments as to what tradeoffs are acceptable. These alternatives will utilize a new technique called the Niche Pareto procedure, pioneered by Mayer's co-investigator, Jeffrey Horn of Northern Michigan University's Department of Math and Computer Sciences.

"These new algorithms will allow decision

(Continued on page 3)

Center for Teaching, Learning,  
and Faculty Development



## Teaching Tips

## Learning from a student's perspective

By *William Kennedy*, director

Books about college teaching tend to come in two flavors.

Those that provide a listing of tips and techniques and those, like Ramsden's *Learning to Teach in Higher Education*, that offer theoretical insights, usually through reexamination of the entire educational enterprise. Ramsden argues that improving

college teaching in an age of decreasing resources requires the thoughtful identification of problems inherent in our present methods. Simply trying a little of this or that, here or there, he holds, is unlikely to yield lasting or desirable results.

There is no doubt that university professors have more and more demands being placed on their time and energy. It is also true that most instructors are being encouraged to develop approaches and employ skills that they were never exposed to in their own educational programs. Ramsden notes that "... the average university [teacher] is now expected to be an excellent teacher: a man or woman who can expertly redesign courses and methods of teaching to suit different groups of students, deal with large, mixed-ability classes, and juggle new administrative demands, while at the same time carrying a heavy research responsibility and showing accountability as both a teacher and a scholar."\*

Ramsden's book is based on the notion that teachers can best improve their teaching by conducting a careful examination of student learning. Learning, in this regard, is about "changing the ways in which learners understand the concepts and methods that are characteristic of the discipline or profession that they are studying."\* Ramsden holds that the type of learning we should encourage is not the ability to juggle formulae or memorize textbook knowledge for purposes of passing the exam. He suggests that "learning that involves change in understanding implies and includes [developing] a facility with a subject's techniques and an ability to remember its details."\* Thus, improving teaching requires a change in the teacher's thinking not unlike the change we should desire for our students.

Based on these fundamental ideas, Ramsden argues that teachers ought to evaluate each and every aspect of their teaching practices on the simple criterion of whether or not what we do is likely to contribute to substantive and lasting student learning. Recognizing the numerous demands placed on faculty and the manifest influences of various university constituents on students, Ramsden acknowledges that for meaningful and lasting change to occur, the cumulative influence of all of the elements comprising the academic community must be carefully scrutinized. As Ramsden has it, "... the key to improving teaching is changing the way in which the process of education is conceived by its practitioners."\*

According to Ramsden, successful instructors "1) possess a broad range of specialized teaching skills, 2) they never lose sight of the primacy of their goals for student learning, 3) they listen to and learn from their students, 4) they constantly evaluate their own performance, 5) they understand that teaching is about making it possible for students to learn, and 6) they succeed in integrating educational wisdom and hard-headed classroom knowledge."\*

Next week, we'll continue to explore the outworking of some of Ramsden's ideas in more depth.

\* Paul Ramsden, *Learning to Teach in Higher Education* (Rutledge, NY, 1992)

## Groundwater (Continued from page 2)

makers to determine the importance of competing objectives in a given situation," explains Mayer. "An iterative process will be used to guide the decision maker towards a preferred weighting or ranking of the multiple objectives. We will apply the algorithms to a series of test problems based on real sites to evaluate and compare the performance of each algorithm."

Carl Enfield of the Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Management Lab in Cincinnati will provide field expertise in evaluating all remediation methods used.

Mayer expects the project to result in remediation designs that are significantly less expensive than those provided by traditional design approaches.

"In previous approaches where optimization has been used for remediation system design, cleanup goals were specified as static constraints," he says. "This project will involve the direct incorporation of risk assessment into the remediation design process. The decision maker will be able to view the full range of potential remediation designs in terms of the risk they would impose, while weighing the risk against estimated cost and cleanup time."

The project is being funded for three years by a \$253,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

## MLK Tech Tea: The Power to Reflect

*Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment*

Testimonials and tributes from Michigan Tech students and faculty members will celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at a special Tech Tea Time. Presented by the MTU Black Students Association (BSA), the observance is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. Inspired by King's statement "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love," the group has titled the observance "The Power to Reflect."

A short documentary video on the life of King will also be shown. Light refreshments will be served, and the event is free and open to all.

Few have had as much impact upon the American consciousness as the civil rights leader. This spring marks the 30th anniversary of his death, and a year when people all over the country will be remembering and talking about King's work. "The life Dr. King lived can be paralleled to none other," said **Kevin Walker**, president of BSA. "America's early national heroes were warriors and soldiers, whose acts expressed the pioneer spirit that defined the nation. George Washington, Daniel Boone, and Davy Crockett were



HONORING  
**MARTIN  
LUTHER  
KING, JR.**

larger-than-life figures who captured the public imagination. They appeared when the American frontier was real, danger apparent everywhere, and physical heroism a proper response. To challenge this idea came Martin Luther King Jr. with his idea of non-violence. As a national leader of the civil rights movement, Dr. King used his powerful leadership to help redefine the nation we live in today."

BSA invites both campus and community to come to Tech Tea Time to revisit the life of Martin Luther King and to join in the dialogue about the role he played in shaping the America of today and the future. Tech Tea Time is sponsored by the University Cultural Enrichment Department. For further information or to propose a topic for future Tech Tea Time sessions, call 487-2844.

## Echoes Choir on MLK tour

The ECHOES from Heaven Gospel Choir, under the direction of **Inetta Harris** (fine arts), is on the road giving several performances in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

Concerts are set for Northwood University, in Midland, on Thursday, January 14; Zion Baptist Church in Saginaw, on Saturday, January 16; First Baptist Church in Midland, on Sunday, January 17; and Northern Michigan University, on January 19. In addition, the choir will be singing with a combined chorus and the Midland Symphony Orchestra on Monday, January 18, a performance of Michael Woods's cantata, *War, Peace, Anger, Love*. Narration will be provided by Mae Jemerson, the first African-American woman astronaut.

## Two University custodians pass away over the holidays

Michigan Tech lost two of its custodial staff over the holiday period.

**LYNN PANKE**, 37, a custodian in the Administration Building, died of cancer December 29 at Portage View Hospital. An Ontonagon native, she lived in Dodgeville with her husband, David Panke, and daughter Nicole. The couple had celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary last June.

"She was very pleasant and enjoyable to work with," said her fellow custodian **David Hendrickson**. "And she was a very good worker, really conscientious and neat. She would often receive complimentary notes from people in her area attesting to that. We really miss her."

Custodian **Kurt Helminen**, who also worked with Panke, agreed. "She was a real caring person, a very dedicated worker. I can't say enough good things about her. She'd go out of her way to help you and never asked for anything in return. Lynn took a lot of pride in her work, and everybody who worked with her appreciated that."

Panke came to MTU in 1991, working in food service at the Memorial Union. She then worked at McNair Hall before joining the Administration Building staff.

**JIM VOGHT**, a custodian in the Chemical Sciences and Engineering Building, died December 26 following an apparent heart attack at his Lake Linden home. He was 42 years old.

Voght came to MTU in 1981 and worked in the Academic Office Building for several years before accepting the position in Chemical Sciences and Engineering. "Jim was always willing to take on special projects, and he was really good with the students," said his supervisor, **Dennis Salo**. "He would greet them in the morning and always tried to do a good job for them. He always seemed to be concerned about getting his classrooms ready in time, before the students arrived.

"He'll be missed by all of us who worked with him over the years," Salo said.

A Hancock native, Voght graduated from Houghton High School and had close ties with the community and his family, including daughter Carrie and many brothers and sisters. "He came from a big family and enjoyed family things," said Professor **Jim Gale** (SBE), who often visited with Voght during his days in the Academic Office Building. "We had a lot of common interests. He was a whiz with machinery, and was very helpful—he came out and helped me with my tractor," he said. "When he was here in the building and you could hear equipment working, I'd joke that he could smell diesel fuel a mile away."

Voght was also a skilled sportsman. "He was a sharpshooter—a very good marksman," Gale said. "And he really loved to talk with people. I thought of him as a friend, and I was so sorry to hear about his death. It was a shock."

## C<sup>2</sup>E<sup>2</sup> proposals sought

The Century II Campaign Endowed Equipment (C-E) Fund Committee will meet early in February to review proposals. Guidelines are available at <http://www.sas.it.mtu.edu/rgs/graduate/c2e2.htm>. Faculty who want to have their proposal considered this term should submit proposals by January 29 at 5:00 p.m.

Send eight copies to the vice provost for research and dean of the graduate school. Proposals received after January 29 will be held for consideration in the spring term.

# MTU researchers lead wolf study in Minnesota, Michigan

Submitted by the News Bureau

The National Park Service is funding a three-year, \$100,000 study of timber wolves in and around Minnesota's Voyageurs National Park and Michigan's Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Results will be used to establish enhanced management plans for wolves in the Lake Superior region.

The federal government currently lists wolves as an endangered species in Michigan and Wisconsin and as threatened in Minnesota. The Minnesota wolf population has expanded rapidly, while wolves in Michigan and Wisconsin have been making a rapid comeback since the late 1980s, after being nearly absent for many years.

Wolf numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin are now high enough (federal guidelines call for 100 outside Minnesota) that current plans call for the species to be downlisted to threatened in the Great Lakes region. Wolf management would then become the responsibility of the states.

Despite existing legal protection, not all has been rosy for wolves in the Lake Superior region, according to Professor **Rolf Peterson** (SFWP), a wildlife biologist who is heading up the park service study. Despite their protected status, wolf losses caused by human activities near Voyageurs National Park remain high. And park wolf-protection policies were initially struck down in court for lack of supportive information, he said.

Following a lawsuit filed by a Minnesota snowmobilers' association, a federal appeals court ruled that the National Park Service did have sufficient information to close park areas to snowmobile traffic to protect wolves. "That court action points out the need for more information in both Minnesota and Michigan upon which to base management decisions," says Peterson.

The wolf's status in the Lake Superior region is different than in other parts of its historic range, where expensive and controversial restoration actions have been taken or are being planned.

"Here in the Lake Superior region, wolves have returned on their own to much of their

former range, and have increased to the point where they will soon meet delisting criteria," he says. "But this fact cannot be cited as an example of the success of the Endangered Species Act unless steps are taken to ensure sustained recovery."

Research education, and proper management are needed to minimize conflicts with landowners and recreationists.

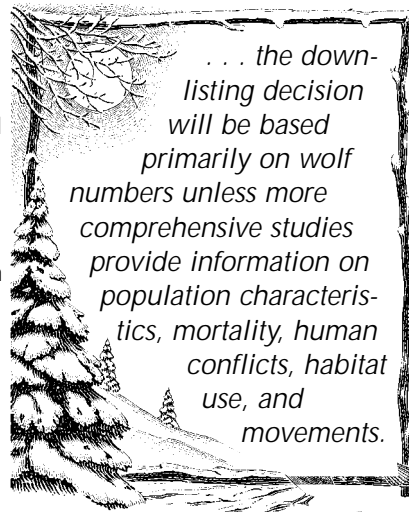
Threats to the wolves also include diseases such as sarcoptic mange and canine parvovirus. Peterson believes that only by trapping and testing wolves can the extent of such diseases be determined. The availability of prey such as deer and moose also play an important role in wolf survival. And planners

need information about wolf movements across private properties and highways to identify areas of potential conflict and to develop strategies for minimizing them.

In September, Peterson and his colleagues put radio collars on four wolves trapped in Voyageurs and have begun monitoring their movements. That information will allow the park to use a Cumulative Effects Model being developed by the University of Minnesota to guide cooperative, legally defensible management planning.

The situation at Pictured Rocks is dramatically different. While wolves have been thriving in Minnesota, where their population is the largest in the United States outside Alaska, they have only in recent years made a comeback in Michigan.

"The speed of the wolf recovery in Michigan has taken land managers by surprise," says Peterson, "and has led to a situation where the species was eligible for federal downlisting even before the state wolf management plan was approved in late 1997." But little information is available, and the



downlisting decision will be based primarily on wolf numbers unless more comprehensive studies provide information on population characteristics, mortality, human conflicts, habitat use, and movements.

Pictured Rocks was chosen as one of the study sites because it is part of a larger complex of national, state, and corporate forests and a national wildlife refuge (Seney), which are essential to a sustainable wolf population in Upper Michigan, according to Peterson.

"While Pictured Rocks extends for more than forty miles along the Lake Superior shore, it is not very wide, and wolves don't use much of the park on a regular basis," explains Peterson. "But the park is surrounded by thousands of acres of state and national forest land and commercial forests that comprise parts

of the territories of several developing wolf packs frequenting the central part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This situation calls for the cooperation of various landowners and management agencies to gather the information necessary to provide a sound basis for wolf management decisions in this area. The park service can serve as an important catalyst in this effort."

The U.P. has about 25 packs of wolves numbering about 140 animals. Researchers plan to track at least a dozen packs to determine territories and population densities. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be involved in the Pictured Rocks project, trapping the wolves and fit them with radio collars. Wolf activities will be monitored by airplane by Peterson and his co-investigator, Associate Professor **Thomas Drummer** (mathematical sciences), a biometrician.

Peterson expects the study to enable park managers to perpetuate a wolf population on or near the Pictured Rocks park land, and to provide information from the park's surrounding lands on wolf status as the population recovers.

## Adler to speak on plant defenses January 19

**John Adler**, chair of the biological sciences department, is the guest lecturer for the next Sigma Xi Seminar, set for Tuesday, January 19, at 4:00-5:00 p.m., in Memorial Union 105A.

Adler will speak on "Why Is the World Green? Strategies in Plant Defense."

Everyone is welcome, and wine, soft drinks, cheese, and crackers will be provided.

## New staff

**Erik Keranen** has joined the staff of the Institute of Wood Research as a research associate. He was previously employed at Trus Joist MacMillan and has a BS in Wood Science from MTU. Keranen lives in Calumet.

**James Cross** is the new director of international programs and services. He was previously associate vice president for global education at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. Cross holds a PhD from the Graduate Institute for International Studies, University of Geneva; a graduate certificate from the European Institute for International Studies at

the University of Nice, France; a diploma from the Hague Academy of International Law, in the Netherlands; a French language certificate from the University of Western Ontario; and a BS from the University of Vermont. He is married to Cinzia Cross, lives in Houghton, and has two children, Jessica, 11, and Sean, 8. Cross has worked in the areas of international security, development, and education for the North Atlantic Assembly in Brussels, the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Rome, and various nonprofit organizations.

## All about all-departments e-mail

Michigan Tech's all-departments e-mail list, `alldpts-l`, has been a great way for MTU departments to reach faculty and staff all across campus. Compared to sending out paper memos, `alldpts-l` is ultra-cheap (free, even) and fast. Once an `alldpts-l` message leaves a department, it can be all over the University in a matter of hours, or even minutes.

Here's how it works. On behalf of your departments, you may send e-mail messages relating to University events or operations to this address: `alldpts-l@mtu.edu`. That message is sent to the `alldpts-l` managers, who are University Relations staffers. One of them then sends the message on to the entire `alldpts-l` list.

At least one person in each department is a member of the `alldpts-l` e-mail list, usually a department coordinator or secretary. This person receives all of the `alldpts-l` messages and then decides which ones to distribute to members of their department. These contact people serve as gatekeepers, picking and choosing what information they believe will be important to what people in their unit. For example, if they work in a nonacademic department, they probably wouldn't forward a message meant for faculty.

Generally this system works well. The right messages are sent to the right people, and employees don't find too many irrelevant `alldpts-l` messages in their in boxes. But sometimes the system breaks down. Here are few suggestions on getting the most out of `alldpts-l`.

### Sending an `alldpts-l` message

- Include a line at the top saying who should receive it, such as all teaching personnel or all professional staff.
- Remember that `alldpts-l` is not the U.S. Mail. While most messages get where they should, not all of them do. If you have a very important announcement, you may wish to send out paper memos to everyone, in addition to using the `alldpts-l` list.
- Be aware that not all messages are appropriate for `alldpts-l`. In general, messages should deal only with University activities, and they should include information that people may wish to act upon in a timely fashion. For instance, if you only want to reach one or two departments or a few people, you should contact those departments or persons directly. Or, if you'd like to announce some general information, such as an award, send it to *Tech Topics* (`ttopics@mtu.edu`) instead of `alldpts-l`.
- Send your message to `alldpts-l@mtu.edu`, not to an individual manager. That manager could be on vacation or sick, and your message could languish for days in their in box.
- Include a contact person in your message, particularly if it isn't you. People may have questions about the message.
- Keep it short and sweet. This is a memo, not an essay.

If you have any questions about `alldpts-l`, contact Marcia Goodrich at `ttopics@mtu.edu` or 487-1778.

## Proposals in progress

Researchers, their proposals, and their potential sponsors are

- **Wayne Pennington** (geological engineering and sciences), "Borehole Seismic Source Evaluation, Traverse City Test Facility," MIT
- **Sarah Green** (chemistry), "Radical Production within Smoke and Exhaust Plumes," NSF
- **John Sandell, Todd King** (technology), and **Edward Fisher** (chemical engineering), "Establish a Regional Process Technology Education Center," NSF
- **Jean Mayo** (computer science), "Using Real Time to Monitor Distributed Applications," NSF
- **William Kennedy** (teaching center), "Teaching and Learning Discussion Series," Suomi College
- **Anant Godbole** (sciences and arts), "Discovery Amidst Diversity," Department of Education

## Internet 2 coming to Tech

The National Science Foundation has awarded Michigan Tech \$350,000 to fund a high-performance network connection between MTU and both the vBNS and Internet 2.

The vBNS is a high-speed backbone network provided by NSF and MCI that will connect approximately 100 research facilities across the country. Internet 2 is a higher-education initiative to build a new high-speed network backbone that will connect networks supporting advanced research and education.

This infrastructure will benefit MTU's research programs, as both vBNS and Internet 2 are designed to support collaborative research between scientists and engineers located at research universities and national laboratories. MTU's gateway should be operational by summer 2000. This gateway will be ten times faster than MTU's existing Internet gateway and will provide enough bandwidth to support large network applications such as videoconferencing, scientific visualization, and accessing remote scientific instrumentation such as telescopes and microscope facilities over the network.

The grant was submitted by Merit, Inc., in cooperation with researchers from Michigan Tech, Central Michigan University, and Northern Michigan University. Only the MTU portion of the grant was funded. Project and program descriptions contributed by researchers from the Departments of Chemistry, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Science, Geological Engineering and Sciences, ME-EM, and Physics, as well as the Technology Development Group and the School of Forestry and Wood Products.

Information Technology will be coordinating the gateway installation with staff from Merit, Inc., and will work with researchers across campus to help them take advantage of this new resource.

Those involved in soliciting the \$350,000 grant were **Ted Bornhorst** (geological engineering and sciences), **Richard Brown** (chemistry), **James Cross** (IT), **Brenda Helminen** (IT), **Xiaoqiu Huang** (computer science), **Michael Hyslop** (SFWP), **Dennis Johnson** (civil and environmental engineering), **Shawn Laemmrich** (Technology Development Group), **Ann Maclean** (SFWP), **Terance McNinch** (Technology Development Group), **Pushpalatha Murthy** (chemistry), **Amitabh Narain** (ME-EM), **Bruce Rafert** (physics), **James Riehl** (chemistry), and **William Rose** (geological engineering and sciences).

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by clicking on "Tech Topics."

## Senate (Continued from page 1)

the academic year to make up classes in the summer.

Senator **Richard Blanning** (fine arts) said that many western universities have two sixteen-week semesters, and that fourteen-week semesters cater to that small minority of students who fail required courses.

Barna said that many universities were switching from fifteen- to fourteen-week semesters. "Why reinvent the wheel?" he said.

Senator **Narasipur Suryanarayana** (ME-EM) said faculty in his department were about evenly divided on the 14- v. 15-week issue. Some were concerned about the reduction in instructional days, while others liked the idea of students' having fourteen weeks in the summer for school or work opportunities.

Senator **Stephen Hackney** (MME) said that several faculty in his department had felt that, when they voted on the issue, that they were voting on a calendar based on fifteen-week semesters.

Reporting on sentiment within the social sciences department, Seely said faculty were concerned that a trimester calendar would mimic the "breathless pace" of the current quarter system.

"Trimesters are not on the table," Provost **Fred Dobney** cautioned. "The faculty approved semesters" in a referendum last spring. He stressed that faculty would be expected to teach the fall and spring semesters, whatever the summer session might be.

While admitting that the fall holidays do disrupt instruction, Senator **Wayne Pennington** (geological engineering and sciences) said, "I haven't heard an overwhelming reason to change the boundary conditions."

**John DeVol**, vice president of the Undergraduate Student Government, said students were "very concerned" about the senate's calendar proposals. "Students were promised that these things [holidays and instructional days] would be protected," he said. "The [CICC] calendar that was proposed last week was the best possible calendar" drafted with the input of constituencies across campus, he said.

USG President **Marcus Gioe** said an e-mail survey garnered responses from about 1,400 from students, who were overwhelmingly in favor of having a thirty-week academic year. He noted that the fourteen-week semester plan would cut instructional days on the heels of a significant tuition increase. And he said a longer summer program would benefit few students, since most go home or work during the summer. "You can't consider summer part of instructional time," he said. He also suggested that it was inconsistent to eliminate holidays to gain instructional time, while at the same time reducing the number of instructional days by shortening the semesters.

Snyder said that no faculty members were saying they wanted to teach fourteen weeks

to reduce their workload. "The calendar is the prerogative of the academic faculty," he said, not the domain of the students.

Senators approved fourteen-week semesters on a 16-9 vote.

CICC Chair **William Kennedy** said that only 10 to 15 percent of students need to re-take classes in the summer, and they could be accommodated by having two intensive summer sessions. "Fifteen weeks ain't fourteen weeks," he said, "We predicated the calendar on making it as least disruptive as possible to all of the University."

Students supported retaining a traditional K-Day. Having it on Labor Day would reduce participation, since students would probably just use the time to visit home, they said. The Good Friday holiday also provides travel time for students over the Easter weekend, Gioe said.

Senator **William Shapton** (ME-EM) suggested restoring K-Day if the fall semester starts after Labor Day.

Regarding Good Friday, Snyder said, "We don't celebrate religious holidays."

Senator **Betty Chavis** (Educational Opportunity) argued in support of observing Martin Luther King Day. In later discussions, the senate heard a proposal to have a Martin Luther King holiday in exchange for ending the Good Friday observances.

Following the vote to approve fourteen-week semesters, the senate began debating when to start fall classes, before or after the Labor Day weekend. Gioe urged the senate to refer the matter back to committee. "To change to fourteen weeks and then make the rest of the decisions in a meeting is a big mistake," he said, noting that many complex issues are involved. "I'm concerned that a piecemeal approach might not yield the best results," Seely said.

Members of the CICC are working on calendar alternatives to present to the senate.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT MTU

Job descriptions are available from Human Resources starting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. You can e-mail us at JOBS@MTU.EDU and we will e-mail you the job description you request.

The following positions will be posted Friday, January 15, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. through noon, Friday, January 22, 1999, in the Human Resources Office.

Assistant Director of Athletic Communications and Marketing—University Relations  
System Administrator—Center for Experimental Computation  
Custodian—Memorial Union (REGULAR, FULL-TIME POSITION, THIRD SHIFT; AFSCME INTERNAL POSTING ONLY)

University employees are reminded to apply in writing prior to noon, Friday, January 22, 1999, to be considered as internal candidates for bargaining unit positions only. Applicants from the recall pool will be given first consideration for non-bargaining-unit positions only. Vacancy announcements are normally posted every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Human Resources Office. Complete job descriptions are available in the Human Resources Office or by calling 487-2280. More information regarding employment opportunities is available by calling the Job Line at 487-2895. Michigan Technological University is an equal opportunity educational institution/equal opportunity employer.

## January

- 14 Thursday**  
5:30 p.m.—Women's basketball, Saginaw Valley State at MTU—SDC  
7:30 p.m.—Men's basketball, Saginaw Valley State at MTU—SDC
- 15 Friday**  
Martin Luther King's Birthday  
7:35 p.m.—Hockey, St. Cloud State at MTU—Student Ice Arena
- 16 Saturday**  
1:00 p.m.—Women's basketball, Northwood at MTU—SDC  
3:00 p.m.—Men's basketball, Northwood at MTU—SDC  
7:05 p.m.—Hockey, St. Cloud at MTU—Student Ice Arena
- 18 Monday**  
6:00 p.m.—Women's basketball, NMU at MTU—SDC  
8:00 p.m.—Men's basketball, NMU at MTU—SDC
- 20 Wednesday**  
4:00 p.m.—Tech Tea: "The Power to Reflect"—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge
- 22 Friday**  
9:00 a.m.—Board of Control meeting—Dearborn Inn

## On the road

Professor **Anil Jambekar** (SBE) gave a keynote address, "Quality of Management, the Next Millennium and Challenges for System Dynamics Community," at the International Conference on System Dynamics held December 15-18 at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India. He also presented a paper, "Interaction between Process Improvement Management and Throughput Focus under Resource Constraints," and conducted a workshop session, "A Systems Thinking Case: A Picture Is Worth Thousand Words."